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From: writerep
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2001 10:01 AM
To: fl02wyr
Subject: WriteRep Responses

DATE: May 24, 2001 09:17 AM
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Message:
Honorable Boyd:

00-258 /

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

You recently visited the Jefferson County School Board Office to receive input on issues that impact education. I mentioned to you that I had a concern about the ITFS licenses being reassigned and not used by educational institutions.

Jefferson currently has a license and utilize it through a consortium effort with Leon, Wakulla, Gadsden, Taylor and Madison school systems to broadcast educational programming for students and teachers in our area.

I have received the message below from Melinda Crowley, Instructional Technology Contact at the Florida Department of Education. I hope you have time to review her message and consider the vote to take the ITFS spectrum off the table.

I appreciate your consideration in this issue. I know you want to vote for what will be best for the students in our nation.

Linda Hewett

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ACTION ALERT--Post Widely

TELL CONGRESS AND THE FCC TO TAKE THE
EDUCATIONAL SPECTRUM (ITFS) OFF THE TABLE

Background:

As Congress prepares to recess for Memorial Day, the next phase of the fight for the future of ITFS (Instructional Television Fixed Service) begins. With members returning to their districts and states, harried

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Hill staffers will use the period from May 26th through June 3rd to take a deep breath and try to catch up on missed meetings. ITFS supporters should take advantage of this opportunity to access policymakers at home and intensify their Congressional advocacy on preserving the ITFS spectrum.

Put simply, right now is an ideal time for ITFS licensees and their commercial partners to tell Congress and the FCC to take the education spectrum off the table for 3G services. First, with the FCC's imminent July ruling on Third Generation Wireless, educators need to keep the pressure on and not let up. Second, a broad consensus is emerging that ITFS is not the right spectrum for 3G. ITFS is not the spectrum used for 3G Mexico and Canada, nor is the spectrum preferred by most in the cellular telecommunications industry. Hence, licensees need to push the case that the FCC should remove the uncertainty facing the ITFS/MMDS licensee holders as soon as possible by taking the education broadband spectrum off the 3G policy tables, thereby allowing these exemplary private public partnerships to move forward.

Action Requested: 1) Educators and ITFS licensees are urged to call their members of Congress immediately and schedule meetings to discuss ITFS during the upcoming Congressional recess and afterwards. Members of Congress need to be told that now is the time to TAKE ITFS OFF THE TABLE for 3G services and that they should actively encourage the FCC not to delay its scheduled July 3G decision, at least as to the education broadband spectrum. With continued resistance from the Department of Defense to sharing portions of its spectrum (which is what 3G providers really want), licensees should particularly target Senate and House Armed Services, Commerce, and Education Committee members with the take ITFS off the table message. The bottom line: whatever happens with DOD, ITFS is not and cannot be a real option for 3G.

2) If you are a licensee, share this alert with others and ask the institutions that you serve to contact your Congressional delegation in support of ITFS.